



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

SN

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/479,648 01/07/00 STEELMAN

R 54655USA1B

EXAMINER

IM52/0717

OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COUNSEL  
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY  
P O BOX 33427  
ST PAUL MN 55133-3427

GALLAGHER, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1733

7

DATE MAILED:

07/17/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trad marks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/479648

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

## Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.  
Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
  - ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) (3) 4-6
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Office Action Summary

Art Unit 1733

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: (a) Page 5 line 19 and page 6 line 18 - change "to" before "the" to "with"; and (b) page 6 line 18 - delete the term "to be adhered to" as being unnecessary and/or redundant.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: There is no apparent support for the limitations of claim 31 in its entirety, the closest such disclosure apparently being found at page 8 lines 28-31 of the specification.

3. Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Specifically (a) if the term "heat neutral pressure source" is not a generally recognized term of art, then it is felt that it should be replaced by one that is; and (b) applicants' apparent intent is that claims 20-28 define an apparatus (i.e. equipment) and NOT an "article" as now presented, such that these claims should be so amended along this line.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit 1733

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 20-28 are further rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Gladen.

Gladen discloses a bonding apparatus composed of a heat source and a removable, non-stick pressure pad (in the form of a TEFLON cloth) which is interposed between a press/pressure applying surface and a press charge. (Figure, Abstract, column 1 lines 21-23 and 42-67, column 2 lines 1-16).

6. Claims 1-19, 29 and 32-33 are further rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over either Raabe et al. or Hargarter et al.

Raabe et al. (Figure, Abstract, column 1 lines 5-28 and 44-66, column 2 lines 47-68, column 3 lines 1-10 and 35-60; column 4 lines 3-10 and 27-55 and N.B. lines 33-39, Examples 4-5) and Hargarter et al. (Abstract, column 10 lines 5-7, column 6

Art Unit 1733

lines 32-65 and N.B. lines 55-65, column 11 lines 44-63, column 12 lines 24-28) both disclose that it is known to adhere a multilayer, adhesive coated plastic film to a substrate via a process wherein the film is first heated to or above its softening point and then contacted with and pressed onto a substrate utilizing a roller pressure application means (which last foregoing is held/seen to be consistent/in agreement with applicants' specification at page 7 lines 4-5).

7. Claims 30-31 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Ullmann et al.

Ullmann et al. disclose that it is known to assemble a heat source (consistent/in agreement with applicants' specification at page 8 lines 4-6) and accessories for use therewith in a case i.e. in kit form. (Column 1 lines 6-14).

With each of the foregoing art rejections of paragraphs 5-7, any differences which might possibly exist between the envisioned, claimed inventions and the teachings of these respective references are held/seen NOT to constitute patentable differences.

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth

Art Unit 1733

in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-19, 29 and 32-33 are still further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Raabe et al. or Hargarter et al. each in view of Gladen (all of record above). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art to employ the pressure pad of Gladen for its documented beneficial function in/in conjunction with the process of either of the primary references, wherever deemed desirable and/or necessary; mere utilization of a known (and again, beneficial) element involved.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. J. Gallagher whose telephone number is (703) 308-1971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from approximately 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate N/A.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Ball, can be reached on (703) 308-2058. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3599.

Serial No. 09/479,648

-6-

Art Unit 1733

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661/0662.

  
JJGallagher:cdc

July 5, 2001



JOHN J. GALLAGHER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 101 1733

**Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)**  
**6/18/01**

**The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.**

**INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES**

**1. Correction of Informalities – 37 CFR 1.85**

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

**2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.**

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

**Timing of Corrections**

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.